

So as we debate health care over the next week, over the next few months, let's remember that it is more than about money, it is more than about government agencies, it is more than about process, this is about American human beings and their only simple desire to have quality, affordable care. That is what we are about, and that is what we intend to do.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 10 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until noon.

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: How deep are the mysteries and the wisdom of Your presence, O Lord God. How inscrutable are Your judgments and how unsearchable Your ways.

For who knows the mind of the Lord? Or who has ever been Your counselor? Who has ever offered You anything that was not already a gift given by Your creation?

For all is from You, all is because of You, and all is destined for You. To You be all glory, honor and power both now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. KIRKPATRICK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. BACA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, President Kennedy once said, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country."

Immigrants take this question to heart. Not only do they ask what they can do for their country, but they also ask what they can do for their communities and for their families as well. Simply put, immigrants are one of the hardest working groups in America, regardless of legal status. Their willingness to work and to gain assimilation into American society and culture greatly benefits our country.

This month in Iraq, 237 foreign-born U.S. servicemembers became citizens of this country. This is a key example of the level of dedication—I state "dedication"—and service that immigrants give to America.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work with President Obama and with CHC to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, the Democrats in Congress don't want the American people to see this chart. This is the chart that outlines the Democrat proposal, which is moving through the House of Representatives, that contains as many as 53 new Federal programs, agencies and commissions. That's right. They're trying to restrict Members of Congress from showing this to their constituents. They say it's misleading. Well, there's nothing misleading about it. They just don't want anyone to see it.

Well, here it is. I'm using it. Are they going to turn out the lights? Are they going to turn off the cameras? Why don't they want the American people to see this?

Well, I think the American people deserve the truth about the Democrats' \$1.6 trillion takeover of our health care system—more bureaucracy and more taxes, more mandates and more government involvement in your life. Guess what? It also means less jobs for Americans.

According to a model developed by the President's own Council of Economic Advisers' chairperson, this proposal will cost Americans some 5.5 million jobs over the next 10 years. The National Federation of Independent Business says that at least 1 million small business jobs will be lost. Over the weekend, even the Congressional Budget Office made it clear that this will cost low-wage workers an opportunity to get a job.

Listen, after the stimulus hasn't worked, most of my constituents are continuing to ask the question: Where are the jobs? We have a stimulus bill that's not working. We have a national energy tax bill that came through here last month that will cost millions of Americans their jobs. While this will ruin the health care system that we enjoy in America, let's not forget that it will cost us millions of American jobs when most Americans continue to want to know: Where are the jobs?

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT TO BAN THE BURNING OF THE AMERICAN FLAG

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Joint Resolution 47. This is the House joint resolution for the constitutional amendment to ban the burning of the American flag.

For 232 years, the Stars and Stripes have been a unique symbol of freedom and democracy across the world. It is the embodiment of all we are and of all we stand for as a Nation. Millions of our young men and women, including my father and uncles, bravely and selflessly defended their country under that flag. Every day, our servicemembers risk their lives in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the globe to protect the ideals it represents.

To burn or to desecrate our flag, even in political protest, is an affront to the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom and to the many others who have served.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution. I urge all of my colleagues, regardless of party, to join me.

JOBS FIRST

(Mr. CANTOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, in these desperate economic times, Congress must undertake all of its actions with a watchful eye toward the effects on job creation; yet this, unmistakably, has not been the case.

From the stimulus bill that just did not get it right, to the cap-and-trade legislation, to now the ongoing effort to pass a health care bill on the backs of small business, the majority has put jobs on the back burner to muscle through an agenda, frankly, that is anathema to the American people. Slapping an additional 8 percent payroll tax on struggling small businesses that can't afford to pay for insurance doesn't create jobs; it kills them. Imposing a 5 percent surtax on small businesses, on America's producers, doesn't hasten our recovery; it prolongs it.

The American people deserve an agenda that puts jobs first. That is why we ask the majority to work with us. Republicans do have a plan that can expand affordable coverage in health care. It will allow you to keep what you have and not do it by squeezing small business.

I urge the majority to begin this with us. Let's start over. Let's get it right for the American people.

CRAFTING BIPARTISAN HEALTH CARE REFORM LEGISLATION

(Mr. BUTTERFIELD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)